

REMARKS

Claims 33 and 40 are proposed to be amended.

In claim 33, "notifying unit" is changed to "notifying device" for the sake of consistency in terminology (antecedent basis exists for notifying device). In addition, the notifying device is defined to include "a display device which automatically when an engine of the mobile unit is started shows the transmitted parts replacement information in a form of a list."

Support for the added limitations is found in the specification of the application as filed at page 12, line 10 to page 25, line 11 (paragraphs [0049]-[0080] of the published application). Note that paragraph [0068] of the published application discloses that the user of the vehicle may touch the key 401 to indicate "NOT REPLACE" displayed on the display "unit" 312 so that the control unit 314 ends the displaying operation but when the engine is restarted the control unit 314 "repeatedly executes the same displaying operation."

Claim 40 is proposed to be amended by adding to the step of "notifying, through a display device provided in the mobile unit, the part replacement information thus transmitted to a user of the mobile unit," the limitation "wherein the display device automatically when an engine of the mobile unit is started shows the transmitted parts replacement information in a form of a list." These limitations are supported in the specification as described above in connection with the proposed amendment to claim 33.

These proposed amendments are supported by the application as filed and no new matter has been added by any of the amendments.

Claims 33-36, 38-43, and 45-53 will be present in this application if the amendments are entered.

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the proposed amendments and the remarks below, is respectfully requested.

Discussion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the proposed amendments because they would be proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(2) (“[a]n amendment presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal may be admitted”). It is believed that the proposed amendments to claims 33 and 40, by adding an additional limitation concerning when (upon starting the engine of the automobile) and how (automatically and in the form of a list) the display device provides “part replacement information,” will present the pending claims in better form for appeal. Furthermore, it is believed that entry of the proposed amendments will place this application in condition for allowance, at least because the added limitations are not taught or suggested by the art of record, and no further search should be necessary.

The final Office Action mailed on February 8, 2007 rejected claims 33-36, 38-43, and 45-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gormley (U.S. patent 5,513,107) in view of Joao (US 2002/0016655). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As disclosed in the present application, when it is necessary to replace parts in various portions of a vehicle, the user can check whether or not parts suppliers such as dealers have parts in their stocks and can replace them in their work spaces, along with the costs of the parts and the replacement work, in a form of list. See Figures 14 and 15 and paragraphs [0002], [0003], and [0049]-[0080] of the published specification. When using such a list, a user can determine by which dealer the user wishes to request the replacement part depending on the user's convenience. For example, the user may wish to go to one dealer to replace all parts required to be replaced, replace at a lower cost even though the user should have to visit various dealers, or replace immediately, such as today, even though the user should have to visit various dealers.

Independent system claim 33, if amended as proposed, will recite:

A parts management system, comprising a mobile unit and a service center,

wherein the mobile unit comprises:

a collecting device that collects management information related to management of parts of the mobile unit; and

a mobile unit transmitting device that transmits the management information to the service center, and

wherein the service center comprises

a determining device that determines whether or not at least one part required for replacement exists in the parts of the mobile unit based on the transmitted management information;

an acquiring device that acquires part replacement information from parts suppliers related to replacement of at least one part required for replacement, in a case where it is determined by the determining device that at least one part required for replacement exists; and

a service center transmitting device that transmits the part replacement information to the mobile unit,

wherein the mobile unit further comprises a notifying device that notifies the transmitted part replacement information to a user of the mobile unit, the notifying device including a display device which automatically when an engine of the mobile unit is started shows the transmitted parts replacement information in a form of a list, and the part replacement information is at least information comprising: first information identifying the at least one part required for replacement; second information identifying a plurality of parts suppliers for supplying

the part required for replacement; and third information related to stock status of the part with respect to each of the parts suppliers.

Claim 40, the independent method claim, if amended as proposed, will recite:

A method of managing parts of a mobile unit, comprising

collecting, at a mobile unit, management information related to management of parts of the mobile unit;

transmitting the management information from the mobile unit to a service center;

determining, at the service center, whether or not at least one part required for replacement exists in the parts of the mobile unit based on the transmitted management information;

acquiring, at the service center, part replacement information from parts suppliers related to replacement of at least one part required for replacement, in a case where it is determined that at least one part required for replacement exists by said determining;

transmitting the part replacement information from the service center to the mobile unit, and

notifying, through a display device provided in the mobile unit, the part replacement information thus transmitted to a user of the mobile unit, wherein **the display device automatically when an engine of the mobile unit is started shows the transmitted parts replacement information in a form of a list**,

wherein the part replacement information is at least information comprising: first information identifying the at least one part required for

replacement; second information identifying a plurality of parts suppliers for supplying the part required for replacement; and third information related to stock status of the part with respect to each of the parts suppliers.

The user can select one or more parts suppliers to visit by referring to the parts replacement information of the list automatically shown without carrying out the cumbersome work of directly contacting parts suppliers through a central processing computer. The limitations emphasized above are not taught or suggested by either the Gormley or the Joao references.

The Gormley and Joao references do not teach or suggest an automatic process. Even though in Joao it is possible to access a central processing computer 10 from a vehicle (see, e.g., paragraphs [0336]-[0345] and Figure 14 of Joao), it is impossible to obtain an automatic response in a vehicle pertaining to vehicle maintenance information.

Further, it is impossible to show selectable parts suppliers in a form of list.

Further, in the dependent claims, the automatic presentation of the parts replacement information in the form of list is expanded also to automatic presentation of parts costs (claims 34 and 41), availability of servicing work (claims 34 and 41), servicing labor charges (claims 34 and 41), and sales incentive information (claims 35 and 42) with respect to each of various parts suppliers in a form of list.

Conclusion

Claims 33 and 40 should be amended as proposed above in order to put this application in better condition for appeal. In addition, the Applicants submit that the application will also be in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue. The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney as needed in order to advance the examination of this application.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence, including an amendment and a petition to extend time for response, is being filed electronically via EFS-Web with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on May 8, 2007.

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